

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190023

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DLJAMESON

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S: REWOODS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190023

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, LY

SUBJECT:NORTHROP-PAGE AIR DEFENSE CONTRACT; LOCKHEED
DEVELOPMENTS

1. NORTHROP-PAGE HAS UNEXPECTEDLY CONCLUDED A CONTRACT WITH THE LARG IN AMOUNT OF 16 MILLION DOLLARS FOR FIRST PHASE OF AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. HOWEVER DUE TO INTENSIFICATION OF LIBYAN OPPOSITION TO OUR PEACE EFFORTS AND RECENT CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ABOUT ARMS SALES TO THE MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO REVERSE ITS PREVIOUS POSITION AND WITHHOLD APPROVAL FOR EXPORT OF ITEMS NECESSARY TO FULFILL THE CONTRACT. NORTHROP-PAGE WAS INFORMED OF THIS DECISION ON AUGUST 11.

2. IN ADDITION, TWO RECENT LOCKHEED REQUESTS, ONE FOR THE TRAINING OF 56 C-130 MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL AND ONE FOR REWORKING OF PARTS FOR C-130'S ALREADY IN LIBYA, ARE BEING HELD UNDER CONSIDERATION BECAUSE OF RECENT CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM OF MILITARY SALES TO LIBYA. IN PARTICULAR CONGRESSMAN LES ASPIN, IN AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SECRETARY, CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS ASKED THAT WE "FLATLY REFUSE" THE TRAINING REQUEST AND

RECOMMENDED THAT THE LOCKHEED TECHNICIANS NOW IN LIBYA BE
WITHDRAWN. THE TWO LOCKHEED REQUESTS WILL BE REVIEWED BY
THE DEPARTMENT AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY THOUGHTS EMBASSY MAY HAVE ON
LIKELY LARG REACTION TO DISAPPROVAL OF NORTHROP-PAGE
CONTRACT. KISSINGER

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